

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 4. (Cancelled).

5. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated substrate polypeptide ~~and an optionally included covalently attached tag sequence~~ for a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13), and an optionally included covalently attached heterologous tag, which wherein the isolated substrate polypeptide begins at amino acid 1587 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the tag is ~~optionally covalently~~ attached at the N-terminal and/or at the C-terminal of said polypeptide and said tag is selected from the group consisting of a glutathione transferase (GST) fusion protein, luciferase, beta-galactosidase, His tag peptides, coupling agents, radioactive labels, and chromophores.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated substrate polypeptide ~~and an optionally included covalently attached tag sequence~~ for a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13), and an optionally included covalently attached heterologous tag, which wherein the isolated substrate polypeptide begins at amino acid 1596 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the tag is attached at the N-terminal and/or at the C-terminal of said polypeptide and said tag is selected from the group consisting of a glutathione transferase (GST) fusion protein, luciferase, beta-galactosidase, His tag peptides, coupling agents, radioactive labels, and chromophores.

7. - 8. (Cancelled).

9. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated polypeptide, ~~wherein said polypeptide has a cleavage site between the 1605th Tyr and 1606th Met of SEQ ID NO:1 for ADAMTS-13, which polypeptide has~~ having an amino acid sequence identity of at least 90% or higher to a) a polypeptide which begins at amino acid 1587 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid

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sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or b) a polypeptide, which begins at amino acid 1596 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polypeptide has 1605th Tyr and 1606th Met of SEQ ID NO:1, and the 1605th Tyr and 1606th Met of SEQ ID NO:1 is a cleavage site for ADAMTS-13.

10. (Cancelled).

11. **(Currently Amended)** The A peptide comprising the isolated polypeptide according to claim 9, further having and a tag sequence attached at the N-terminal and/or at the C-terminal of the isolated polypeptide of claim 9, wherein said tag is selected from the group consisting of a glutathione transferase (GST) fusion protein, luciferase, beta-galactosidase, His tag peptides, coupling agents, radioactive labels, and chromophores.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide according to claim 11, wherein the tag is for immobilization on a solid phase.

14. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide according to claim 13, which is immobilized on a solid phase.

15. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A method for measuring ADAMTS-13 activity in a subject, which comprises contacting the polypeptide according to claim 9 with plasma obtained from a normal subject, followed by analyzing resultant polypeptide fragments to make a control; and contacting said polypeptide with plasma obtained from the subject, followed by

analyzing resultant polypeptide fragments in a similar way and making a comparison with the control.

16. **(Withdrawn – Currently Amended)** A high throughput method for measuring the activity of ADAMTS-13 in plasma from subjects, which comprises employing [[a]]the polypeptide according to claim 9.

17. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising the substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6, or the polypeptide according to claim 9.

18. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the polypeptide according to claim 9.

21. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the polypeptide according to claim 11.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the polypeptide according to claim 13.

24. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the polypeptide according to claim 14.

25. (Previously Presented) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said tag is for immobilization on a solid phase.

26. (Previously Presented) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13, according to claim 25, which is immobilized on a solid phase.

27. (Currently Amended) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the ~~mutant~~ substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 25.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the ~~mutant~~ substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 26.

29. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide according to claim 9, wherein said polypeptide contains no Cys residue.